

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AF-04 EA-06 EUR-08 NEA-06 RSC-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6938

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, PFOR, RQ, CU

SUBJ: PUERTO RICO IN COMMITTEE 24: REMARKS BY SECRETARY

GENERAL P.R. SOCIALIST PARTY

REF: USUN 3317

SUMMARY: PR INDEPENDENTISTA LEADER, MARI BRAS, REPEATED USUAL CHARGES OF US IMPERIALISM IN PUERTO RICO IN HEARING BEFORE COMMITTEE OF 24 BUT STATEMENT SOMEWHAT Milder IN TONE THAN LAST YEAR. COMMITTEE WILL HEAR OTHER INDEPENDISTA LEADER BERRIOS AND CUBAN PERM REP ALARCON ON FRIDAY BUT NO OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBER EXPECTED TO SPEAK AND NO RESOLUTION ON PR WILL BE ADOPTED BY COMMITTEE THIS YEAR. END SUMMARY.

1. COMMITTEE OF 24 MEETING OCT. 30, COMMITTEERAPPORTEUR ARTEAGA (VENEZUELA) FORMALLY INTRODUCED REPORT ON PUERTO RICO PREPARED BY HIM IN ACCORDANCE WITH COMMITTEE'S AUG. 30, 1973 RESOLUTION (REFTEL). ARTEAGA REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED THE OBJECTIVE AND FACTUAL NATURE OF THE REPORT AS WELL AS DIFFICULT AND CAREFUL WORK THAT WENT INTO ITS PREPARATION, AND SAID THAT IT IS NOT AN ANALYSIS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CONDITIONS NOR EXHAUSTIVE.

2. FOLLOWING INTRODUCTION OF REPORT, COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SALIM, IN ABSENCE OF ANY OBJECTION, INVITED JUAN MARI BRAS, SECRETARY GENERAL OF PUERTO RICAN SOCIALIST PARTY, (PSP) AND REUBEN BERRIOS MARTINEZ, PRESIDENT OF THE P.R. INDEPENDENCE PARTY (PIP), TO TAKE PART IN THE DISCUSSION AND GAVE THE FLOOR TO MARI BRAS.

3. MARI BRAS'S DETAILED CRITIQUE OF THE REPORT LASTED ONE AND A HALF HOURS AND CONTAINED MOST OF THE USUAL INDEPENDENTISTA SAWS.

4. MARI BRAS THANKED ARTEAGA FOR HIS EFFORTS IN PREPARING REPORT, AND SAID THAT POSITIVE SIDE OF THE REPORT WAS ITS CLEAR REFLECTION OF THE FACT THAT THE POLITICAL STATUS OF P.R. HAS NOT BEEN RESOLVED TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE P.R. PEOPLE.

5. HE CHARACTERIZED U.S. RELATIONS WITH P.R. AS MONOPOLISTIC, CAPITALIST AND IMPERIALISTIC AND REFERRED TO THE HEROES AND MARTYRS OF THE 30 OCTOBER 1950 UPRISING IN PUERTO RICO AS WELL AS FIVE SO-CALLED "POLITICAL PRISONERS" IN US PRISONS.

6. AMONG THE CRIMES WHICH MARI BRAS CHARGED THE US WITH WERE: A MASSIVE CAMPAIGN OF STERILIZATION AND IMMIGRATION DESIGNED TO DISSOLVE THE P.R. PEOPLE AND CONVERT IT INTO A WANDERING HOMELESS MASS; ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION AND POLLUTION OF THE ISLAND; AND A FLOOD OF PROPAGANDA.

7. HE DESCRIBED OCT. 27 INDEPENDENTISTA RALLY IN NEW YORK AS "EVIDENCE OF THE INCREASINGLY WIDESPREAD STRUGGLE OF THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE" SUPPORTED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY BY REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL POLITICAL AND ETHNIC GROUPS IN THE U.S. BUT MADE NO MENTION OF OCT. 26 BOMBINGS.

8. MARI BRAS ASKED THE COMMITTEE OF 24 TO: A) DEMAND THAT US COMPLY WITH RESOLUTION 1514 BY TRANSFERRING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POWER TO THE P. R. PEOPLE; B) REJECT ALL "FALSE MECHANISM OF PSEUDO COLONIALISM" SUCH AS AD HOC COMMITTEE AND REFERENDA ON STATUS WHILE FOREIGN INTERVENTION STILL EXISTS; C) SEND A MISSION TO VISIT P.R. NEXT YEAR; D) TAKE NOTE OF MASSIVE STERILIZATION AND IMMIGRATION.

9. AT BEGINNING OF SPEECH MARI BRAS EXPRESSED GRATITUDE

TO THE "LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OF SALVADOR ALLENDE WHICH PROPOSED LAST YEAR THAT P.R. INDEPENDENTISTAS BE ALLOWED TO SPEAK AND SORROW OVER THE ASSASSINATIONS, MASSACRES AND IMPRISONMENT WHICH RESULTED IN CHILE BECAUSE OF THE IMPERIALIST STRATEGY. CHILEAN REPRESENTATIVE HOLGER MADE SHORTER AND MORE COHERENT RIGHT OF REPLY THAN USUAL FOR THE CHILEANS. HE POINTED OUT THAT CHILE HAD NOT OBJECTED TO INDEPENDENTISTAS SPEAKING THIS YEAR-- SINCE IT WAS WILLING TO LISTEN TO EVERYBODY -- BUT THAT THIS DID NOT IMPLY CHILEAN AGREEMENT WITH SUBSTANCE OF THE POSITION.

10. AT CLOSE OF MEETING, CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCED THAT BARRIOS WILL SPEAK ON FRIDAY MORNING, FOLLOWED BY CUBAN PERM REP ALARCON. COMMENT: NO RESOLUTION RELATIVE TO PUERTO RICO IS CIRCULATING IN COMMITTEE AND CHAIRMAN SALIM HAS URGED COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT TO SPEAK ON PUERTO RICAN ISSUE FRIDAY. SALIM REPORTEDLY PLANNING TO ANNOUNCE THEN THAT SINCE COMMITTEE HAS NOT DEBATED PUERTO RICO THIS YEAR, ITEM WILL BE CARRIED OVER TO COMMITTEE'S AGENDA FOR NEXT YEAR. INDEPENDENTA LEADERS AWARE OF THIS ARRANGEMENT SINCE MARI BRAS REPEATEDLY URGED THAT COMMITTEE GIVE PUERTO RICO HIGH PRIORITY NEXT YEAR. SCALI

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